

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Order of Service for the Worship of God

December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE *Now Come, Savior of the Nations* ~ Dietrich Buxtehude Ben Heizer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Prepare the Way* Chancel Choir

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Psalm 145: 1-2, 8-9, 13, 17, 21

L: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

P: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

L: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.

P: The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and kind in all his works. My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever!

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER** ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

Eternal Father, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by the Holy Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope, that we may welcome Jesus to rule our lives, and claim our love, as King of kings and Lord of lords, to whom be all glory and honor, forever. Amen.

***HYMN** *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming* #255

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Faith: ~ The Cahill Family

SUNG RESPONSE: (Tune, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*)

O come, Eternal Source of God's true grace,

And Savior for all in the human race.

His earthly parents showed forth their faith,

Believing all to them the angels saith.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.



UNISON PRAYER ~ Eternal Father, by the Holy Spirit you have given us the gift of faith to believe in your Son Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Give us more faith, so that we may live according to your word, obeying the commands of Christ, and trusting you in all circumstances, just as Mary and Joseph submitted to your will. Amen.

CHILDREN'S LESSON (*Preschool through 2nd grade children may be led to Junior Church following the children's message. Older children's bulletins are in the vestibule.*)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us, to be light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our lack of faith, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. (Silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ~ 1 Timothy 1:15; James

L: The saying is sure, and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

P: Therefore put away all filthiness and overflowing wickedness, and receive with meekness the word that is planted in you, which is able to save your souls.

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI** #813

ANTHEM *In the Bleak Midwinter* ~ Arr. Mark Schweizer Handbell Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

1st GOSPEL LESSON ~ Matthew 1: 18-25 ~ Page 835 in the pew Bible

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel," which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

***HYMN** *What Child Is This?* #281

2nd GOSPEL LESSON ~ Luke 1: 26-45 ~ Pages 887-888 in the pew Bible

In the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist], the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will

be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How shall this be, since I have no husband?” And the angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing is ever impossible.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

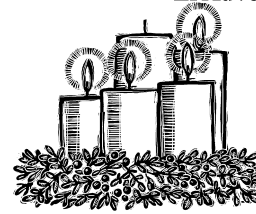
L: This is the word of the Lord; **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON “The Faith of Joseph and Mary” Rev. Frank Wyche
 *HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #250
 OFFERING AND OFFERTORY *The First Noel* ~ Arr. Gordon Young
 *DOXOLOGY #815
 PRAYER OF DEDICATION
 JOYS AND CONCERNS
 MORNING PRAYER AND **THE LORD’S PRAYER** (...debtors/debtors...)
 *HYMN *Love Has Come!* #256
 *BENEDICTION
 *CHORAL RESPONSE *People, Look East* Chancel Choir
 POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* ~ Arr. Gordon Young Ben Heizer
 *Those who are able may stand.
BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 Telephone (540) 885-1648 Church website: www.hebronpc.com

Fourth Sunday
in Advent



**The Faith of Mary
and
Joseph**



The
Birth of
Jesus
Foretold



“...and his name shall be called **Emmanuel** (which means, God is with us).”
—Matthew 1:23

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